

Message Text

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ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 OPR-02 A-01 PER-01 /019 W
-----072624 050757Z /23-12

R 050440Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9329

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, PDIP
SUBJECT: PRIVILEGES FOR NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL

REFS: (A) STATE 176678, (B) SINGAPORE 3303, (C) SINGAPORE 5269

1. REFTEL "A" REQUESTED INFORMATION ON DIFFERENCES IN IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES FOR DIPLOMATIC AND NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND SAID INFORMATION WAS NEEDED FOR DG WORKING GROUP LOOKING INTO THIS SUBJECT. IN REFTEL "B" WE PROVIDED REQUESTED UPDATE OF DIP/NON-DIP SITUATION IN SINGAPORE. REFTEL "C" REPORTED RELUCTANCE OF SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT (GOS) TO ENTER INTO A RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE EMPLOYMENT OF "OFFICIAL" SPOUSES (A-1 AND A-2 DEPENDENTS IN US AND AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS HERE).

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS OFFICIALS ABOUT SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES, AMBASSADOR RAISED ISSUE OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF DIPS AND NON-DIPS HERE. ALTHOUGH PROBLEMS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AND IN DETAIL, NO SOLUTION OR RELIEF WAS OFFERED BY GOS OFFICIALS. IF PROBLEMS ARE TO BE SOLVED, THEREFORE, SOLUTION FOR SINGAPORE MUST COME FROM USG.

3. FOR OVER ONE YEAR, ADMIN OFFICER HAS CHAIRED WORKING GROUP OF INTERESTED EMBASSY EMPLOYEES TO LOOK INTO PROBLEM AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. MOST RECENTLY AFSA MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP HAVE PETITIONED AFSA WASHINGTON TO TAKE UP DIP/NON-DIP PROBLEM WITH
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MANAGEMENT IN DEPT. WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT AFSA HAS BEEN PURSUING THIS ISSUE.

4. WORKING GROUP ALSO RECENTLY APPROACHED SEVERAL "FRIENDLY" MISSIONS IN SINGAPORE TO SEE HOW THEY COPE WITH DIP/NON-DIP INEQUITIES. RESULTS ARE:

A. WEST GERMANS: GOVERNMENT PAYS ALL VEHICLE TAXES FOR THEIR NON-DIPS. (NOTE: VEHICLE TAX STRUCTURE BY FAR CAUSES GREATEST MONETARY INBALANCE IN TREATMENT BETWEEN DIPS AND NON-DIPS).

B. AUSTRALIANS: NON-DIP WITH A CAR RECEIVES SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOWANCE, ABOVE WHAT DIPS RECEIVE, OF A\$1050 PER YEAR. NON-DIP WITHOUT CAR RECEIVES SUPPLEMENTAL A\$550 PER YEAR.

C. BRITISH: GOVERNMENT PAYS IMPORT DUTIES, AND REGISTRATION FEES FOR NON-DIPS (DIPS ARE EXEMPT FROM THESE FEES). ALSO, NON-DIPS RECEIVE A SUPPLEMENT TO COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO BRING THEM UP TO PURCHASING POWER PARITY WITH DIPS.

5. POSSIBILITY OF FILING FORMAL GRIEVANCE AGAINST POST/DEPT. WAS RAISED RECENTLY HAS ONE WAY TO FORCE ACTION TO CORRECT CURRENT INEQUITABLE TREATMENT OF NON-DIP EMPLOYEES. WHILE AT PRESENT NO GRIEVANCE HAS BEEN FILED, IF ACTION NOT FORTHCOMING GRIEVANCE ROUTE MIGHT WELL BE TAKEN.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: A) PLEASE ADVISE STATUS OF DG WORKING GROUP AND, B) WHAT WE CAN DO FROM THIS END TO ADD ESTABLISHING TWO-TIERED ALLOWANCE SYSTEM OR OTHER SOLUTION.
INGRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP00046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780008-0041
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780196/aaaaddax.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7cd8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION CPR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 176678, 78 SINGAPORE 3303, 78 SINGAPORE 5269
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3823914
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIVILEGES FOR NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
TAGS: AFSP, PDIP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7cd8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014